

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, LI

SUBJECT: NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL ESTABLISHED

REF: MONROVIA A-103 OF NOVEMBER 14, 1974; MONROVIA A-24 OF
APRIL 17, 1975.

1. PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICER ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER 10 CREATION
OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL TO "EXPEDITE, CONSOLIDATE AND
SYSTEMATIZE THE NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES
OF GOVERNMENT FOR MORE EFFECTIVE OPERATION." COUNCIL WILL
BE CHAIRED BY PRESIDENT AND COMPOSED, IN ADDITION, OF
MINISTERS OF JUSTICE, DEFENSE, FINANCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS;
DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS (BURLEIGH
HOLDER); AND THREE OTHER MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED BY
PRESIDENT. SUBSEQUENT ANNOUNCEMENT IDENTIFIED/LATTER THREE
AS E. JONATHAN COODRIDGE (MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, RURAL
DEVELOPMENT AND URBAN/RECONSTRUCTION AND CHAIRMAN OF TRUE
WHIG PARTY), JAMES T. PHILLIPS (MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE), AND
NATHANIEL
BAKER (OF MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS).

2. DAY-TO-DAY ACTION OFFICER WILL BE HOLDER, WHO, IN WORDS
OF ANNOUNCEMENT, "SHALL BE IN CHARGE OF NATIONAL SECURITY."
HE WILL RECEIVE DAILY REPORTS FROM ALL NATIONAL SECURITY
AGENCIES, WILL EVALUATE THEM AND BRIEF PRESIDENT ON IMPORTANT
MATTERS REPORTED. HOLDER WILL ALSO COORDINATE ACTIVITIES
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OF COUNCIL. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, ANNOUNCEMENT CONCLUDES,
"PRESIDENT SHALL MAKE ALL DECISIONS AND EXERCISE DIRECT AND

IMMEDIATE CONTROL OVER THE NATIONAL SECURITY."

3. COMMENT. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF CREATION OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL HAS CAUSED LITTLE PUBLIC COMMENT. DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY PATRICK MINOKON WAS SACKED AT SAME TIME, AND HIS DISMISSAL -- ONE AMONG A CONTINUING STRING OF SUCH SACKINGS -- TENDS TO SHOW CREATION OF NEW APPARATUS MORE AS PART OF A SHAKEUP THAN AS A SPECIFIC RESPONSE TO A NEWLY-PERCEIVED SPECIFIC DANGER. NEVERTHELESS, FOR SOME TIME NOW EMBASSY HAS HEARD EXPRESSIONS OF ANXIETY ABOUT ABILITY OF LIBERIAN SOCIETY TO DEAL WITH BURGEONING ACTIVITIES OF SOVIETS AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES ON LOCAL SCENE (MONROVIA A-103 AND A-24). ESTABLISHMENT OF NSC WILL BE TAKEN BY MANY AS NATURAL OUTGROWTH OF THESE ANXIETIES.
MANFULL

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